

Madrid, 9 September 2019

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 6207/19

SUBJECT: JOINT T-RMFO BY-CATCH WORKING GROUP MEETING

(16-18 December 2019, Porto, Portugal)

EXTENSION DEADLINES FOR REGISTRATION, FUNDING, DOCUMENT SUBMISSION

Following previous ICCAT circular #5065 on the Joint tRMFO By-catch Working Group Meeting (16-18 December 2019, Porto, Portugal), I am pleased to inform you that the deadlines for registration, applications for funding, and abstract submission have been extended. The detailed agenda and list of speakers are still being finalized but for your information the list of tentative agenda items is attached. Additional information is available in the ICCAT meetings [webpage](#).

Please be reminded that those wishing to submit documents or presentations for this meeting are now requested to provide to the ICCAT Secretariat (info@iccat.int and nathan.taylor@iccat.int), no later than **the 4 October 2019** (18:00 Madrid time), the respective tentative title, authorship and an extended abstract. To facilitate the Steering Committee's review and later dissemination to meeting participants, authors are requested to provide the extended abstract (maximum length is one page) using the attached MS WORD template for such documents/presentation, including a suggestion of the appropriate agenda item. The ICCAT Secretariat will notify the authors once these extended abstracts have been revised by the Steering Committee, noting that due to time limitation, not all papers/presentation accepted may be given the possibility to be presented during the meeting. Full selected documents/presentations will be made available as early as possible, but no later than **29 November 2019**. The Secretariat will provide translation in the three ICCAT official languages (English, French and Spanish) of the extended abstract of each selected document/presentation. Extended abstract and documents/presentations received after the deadlines, will not be considered.

All participants planning to participate should register at <https://www.iccat.int/en/formmeet.html> as soon as possible. Note also that in order to participate in the meeting and/or receive funding for travel, registrants must have the approval by the respective Head Delegate duly validated by the related t-RMFO Secretariat.

Funding

Funding is available to cover travel and subsistence expenses for two delegates (one manager and one scientist) from each developing Contracting Party of each of the five tRFMOs, including two delegates from the Secretariats who can provide relevant information and/or participation to the meeting objectives. Contracting Parties that are members of more than one of the five tRFMOs can only apply for funding for two delegates (one manager and one scientist).



The requests for financial assistance to attend the meeting shall be submitted to the respective Secretariat and to ICCAT (gisela.porto@iccat.int; info@iccat.int) before the **4 October 2019** (14:30 Madrid time). Requests for financial assistance cannot be accepted after that date.

Please receive the assurances of my highest consideration.

Executive Secretary

Camille Jean-Pierre Manel


DISTRIBUTION:

- **Commission Officers:**

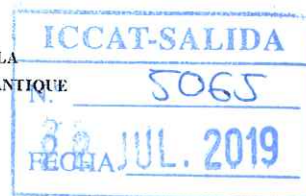
Commission Chair:	R. Delgado	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
First Vice Chair:	S. Depypere	PWG Chair:	N. Ansell
Second Vice Chair:	Z. Driouich	STACFAD Chair:	H.A. Elekon
SCRS Chair:	G. Melvin	SCRS Vice Chair:	R. Coelho
- **Head Delegates / Head Scientists**
- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**
- **FAO, inter-governmental Organizations and Observers**

Attachments: Tentative agenda, Summary document/presentation template.



Tentative Agenda

1. Introductions, opening and meeting arrangements
2. Adoption of Agenda, assignment and instructions for rapporteurs
3. Why do t-RFMOs have an issue with shark by-catch?
4. Collection protocols of logbook and observer bycatch data being employed by each t-RFMO
5. Shark life history available information and knowledge gaps across t-RFMOs
6. Update on shark bycatch research by t-RFMOs, future research priorities and areas for future collaboration
7. Review data analyses on factors contributing to shark by-catch
8. Review and identify appropriate qualitative and quantitative species population status determination methods for by-catch species
9. Review existing by-catch mitigation measures including those adopted by each t-RFMO
10. Management conservation measures to mitigate the impacts of tuna fisheries on shark species
11. Recommendations
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and closure



Madrid, 22 July 2019

ICCAT CIRCULAR # 5065 / 2019**SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE JOINT tRFMO BYCATCH WORKING GROUP MEETING (16-18 December 2019, Porto, Portugal)**

The management of bycatch is an issue of common interest to tRMFOs. Through the KOBE process, tRMFOs have met to discuss bycatch through joint technical working groups. The tRFMO joint technical working group on bycatch was established in 2009 and had its first meeting in 2011 at the IATTC in La Jolla, California, U.S.A. The meeting was followed by others in 2014, 2015, in 2016. The terms of reference for the tRFMO bycatch working group were defined in Appendix 3 of the Report of the International Workshop on Tuna RMFO Management of Issues Relating to Bycatch. The Terms of Reference are included in **Appendix A**. However, there has been no dedicated meeting to problems related to elasmobranchs (sharks and rays) specifically. As a consequence, the Chair of the Kobe Process Steering Committee (SC) recently noted that a decision had been made for there to be a meeting of tRFMOs Bycatch Working Group that is specifically dedicated to elasmobranchs in tuna fisheries and ICCAT has been invited to organize the meeting. Furthermore, the European Union and FAO's Common Ocean/ABNJ Tuna Project have offered to finance another joint tuna RFMOs meeting on elasmobranchs.

I am pleased to inform you that ICCAT will host the next Joint tRFMO Bycatch Working Group Meeting (16-18 December 2019), to be held in Porto (Portugal). Attached you can find information on the venue (Sheraton Porto Hotel & Spa), as well as relevant details of the meeting (tentative agenda, financing, etc.). Arrangements have been made with a local agency to facilitate the booking of hotel rooms, airport transfers, etc., which will soon be posted on the ICCAT current meetings webpage and at tuna-org webpage.

Please note that financing will be available to cover travel and subsistence expenses for two delegates (one manager and one scientist) from each developing Contracting Party.

We would appreciate if you could circulate this announcement to anyone you consider relevant for the meeting objective.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

P'
Executive Secretary

Miguel Neves dos Santos
Assistant Executive Secretary

Miguel Neves dos Santos

DISTRIBUTION:- **Commission Officers:**

Commission Chair:	R. Delgado	COC Chair:	D. Campbell
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SCRS Chair:	G. Melvin	SCRS Vice Chair:	R. Coelho

- **Head Delegates / Head Scientists**- **Cooperating Parties, Entities, or Fishing Entities**- **FAO, inter-governmental Organizations and Observers****Attachments:**

- General information on the meeting
- Terms of Reference of the Joint tRFMO Technical Working Group on Bycatch
- Tentative agenda
- Summary document/presentation template

INFORMATION ON THE JOINT tRFMO BYCATCH WORKING GROUP MEETING

(16-18 December 2019, Porto, Portugal)

Meeting goal

To promote discussions on the assessment and management of elasmobranchs (sharks and rays) from a global perspective within the Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (tRFMOs).

Framework and objectives

The management of bycatch is an issue of common interest to tRFMOs. Through the KOBE process, tRFMOs have met to discuss bycatch through joint technical working groups. The tRFMO joint technical working group on bycatch was established in 2009 and had [its first meeting in 2011](#) at the IATTC in La Jolla, California, U.S.A. The meeting was followed by others in [2014](#), [2015](#), in [2016](#). The terms of reference for the tRFMO bycatch working group were defined in Appendix 3 of the [Report of the International Workshop on Tuna RMFO Management of Issues Relating to Bycatch](#). The Terms of Reference are included in **Appendix A**.

But for sharks and rays, there has been no dedicated meeting. Therefore, the Chair of the Kobe process Steering Committee (SC) recently decided that there should be a meeting of Joint tRFMOs Bycatch Working Group on sharks and rays. We are pleased to inform you that the European Union and FAO's Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Program (ABNJ) have offered to finance the meeting, and that the ICCAT Secretariat was invited to organize it.

Date and venue

The meeting will be held from 16 (Monday) December to 18 December at the Sheraton Porto Hotel & Spa, Porto, Portugal. Registration starts at 08:15 am, 16 December 2019. Meeting hours will be approximately from 09:00 to 18:00. Any scientists or managers from ICCAT who can provide relevant information and/or participation to the meeting objectives are invited to attend.

Contact information

Chair: *To be announced*

ICCAT Secretariat Contact: Nathan Taylor (nathan.taylor@iccat.int)

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Local Contact: WINABLE (geral@winable.pt)

Phone: +351 289 051 844

A number of nearby hotels are available (check [here](#)), which can be booked by contacting directly the local [agency](#). These links will be active from 24 July 2019.

Language

The working language for the meeting will be English, French or Spanish, as simultaneous translation will be provided. Documents/presentations can be written in English, French or Spanish.

Meeting tentative agenda

The attached tentative agenda was drafted by a Steering Committee that was nominated by the Secretariats of each tRFMO.

Timetable

The meeting timetable will be announced later.

Call for documents/presentations

In order to plan the meeting sessions according to the different agenda items, those wishing to submit documents or presentations for this meeting are requested to provide to the ICCAT Secretariat (info@iccat.int and nathan.taylor@iccat.int), no later than **13 September 2019** (18:00 Madrid time), the respective tentative title, authorship and an extended abstract. To facilitate their review the Steering Committee and later dissemination by the meeting participants, authors are requested to provide the extended abstract (maximum length is one page) using the attached MS WORD template for such documents/presentation, including a suggestion of the appropriate agenda item. The ICCAT Secretariat will notify the authors once these extended abstracts have been revised by the Steering Committee, noting that due to time limitation, not all papers/presentation accepted may be given the possibility to be presented during the meeting.

Full selected documents/presentations will be made available as early as possible, but no later than **29 November**. The Secretariat will provide translation in the three ICCAT official languages (English, French and Spanish) of the extended abstract of each selected document/presentation.

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TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE JOINT TUNA RFMO BYCATCH TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

- 1) Identify, compare and review the data fields and collection protocols of logbook and observer bycatch data being employed by each Tuna RFMO. Provide guidance for improving data collection efforts (e.g., information to be collected) and, to the extent possible, the harmonization of data collection protocols among Tuna RFMOs.
- 2) Identify species of concern that, based on their susceptibility to fisheries and their conservation status, require immediate action across Tuna RFMOs. Review all available information on these species and identify their data needs.
- 3) Review and identify appropriate qualitative and quantitative species population status determination methods for bycatch species.
- 4) Review data analyses to identify all fishery and non-fishery (e.g. oceanographic and physical) factors contributing to bycatch, taking into account the confidentiality rules of each RFMO.
- 5) Review existing bycatch mitigation measures including those adopted by each Tuna RFMO and consider new mitigation research findings to assess the potential utility of such measures in areas covered by other Tuna RFMOs taking into consideration differences among such areas.
- 6) Review and compile information on bycatch research that has been already conducted or is currently underway to delineate future research priorities and areas for future collaboration.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Introductions, opening and meeting arrangements
2. Adoption of Agenda, assignment and instructions for rapporteurs
3. Why do tRFMOs have an issue with shark bycatch?
4. Identify, compare and review the data fields and collection protocols of logbook and observer bycatch data being employed by each Tuna RFMO
5. Identify species of concern based on life history that, based on their susceptibility to fisheries and their conservation status, require immediate action across Tuna RFMOs. Review all available information on these species and identify their data needs
6. Review and compile information on bycatch research that has been already conducted or is currently underway at each tRFMO to delineate future research priorities and areas for future collaboration
7. Review data analyses to identify all fishery and non-fishery factors contributing to bycatch
8. Review and identify appropriate qualitative and quantitative species population status determination methods for bycatch species
9. Review existing bycatch mitigation measures including those adopted by each Tuna RFMO
10. Mitigating the impacts of tuna fisheries on shark species at risk
11. Recommendations
12. Other matters
13. Adoption of the report and closure